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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

106th plenary meeting
Thursday, 30 June 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 7.30 a.m., Friday, 1 July

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee under agenda items 127, 129, 143 to 148 and 150 to 160. The Assembly also has before it the report of the Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 113.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Ms. Nicole Mannion of Ireland, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Ms. Mannion (Ireland), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee containing recommendations on issues that required action during the second part of the resumed sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In the course of the second part of the resumed session, which took place between 2 and 27 May and on 30 June, the Fifth Committee held 10 formal meetings, as well as numerous informal meetings and informal consultations. In accordance with resolution 49/233, of 23 December 1994, the second part of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee was devoted primarily to considering the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and associated peacekeeping issues. The Committee considered the financing of 16 peacekeeping missions, as well as other related peacekeeping items and issues.

In addition, the Committee resumed its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113, entitled "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions". On this agenda item, in paragraph 3 of its report contained in document A/65/562/Add.1, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it appoint David Traystman of the United States of America as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 23 July and ending 31 December 2011. The Committee made that recommendation by acclamation.

On agenda item 127, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/65/594/Add.1, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 129, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/65/646/Add.3, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 143, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraph 15 of its report contained in document A/65/890, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the

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adoption of the following five draft resolutions: draft resolution I, entitled "Cross-cutting issues"; draft resolution II, entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations"; draft resolution III, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy"; draft resolution IV, entitled "Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment"; and draft resolution V, entitled "Closed peacekeeping missions". The Committee adopted all those draft resolutions without a vote.

With regard to the draft resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations, I would like to inform the General Assembly that, with the exception of sub-item (b) of agenda item 156, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the Committee adopted all the draft proposals without a vote.

The reports of the Fifth Committee are presented under the following agenda items: 144, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad", which is contained in document A/65/653/Add.1; 145, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire", which is contained in document A/65/881; 146, "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus", which is contained in document A/65/882; 147 to 148, "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", respectively, which is contained in document A/65/654/Add.1; 150, "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste", which is contained in document A/65/883; 151, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea", which is contained in document A/65/878; 152, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia", which is contained in document A/65/879; 153, "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti", which is contained in document A/65/655/Add.1; 154, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo", which is contained in document A/65/884; 155, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia", which is contained in document A/65/885; sub-item (a) of agenda item 156, "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", which is contained in document A/65/886; 157, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan", which is contained in document A/65/656/Add.1; 158, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", which is contained in document A/65/887; 159, "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", which is contained in document A/65/888; and 160, "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009), which is contained in document A/65/889".

With regard to sub-item (b) of agenda item 156, entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/65/880. The Committee considered the draft resolution, as amended, and decided to retain the fourth preambular paragraph and existing operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 by a single recorded vote of 71 in favour, 3 against and 51 abstentions. In paragraph 10 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution, as amended, as a whole, which the Committee adopted by a recorded vote of 121 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

With regard to agenda items 147 and 148, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", respectively, as well as agenda item 159, entitled "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in documents A/65/654/Add.1 and A/65/888, respectively. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Before I conclude, allow me again to thank delegations for their cooperation in the conduct of negotiations. I would also like to thank the Chair of the Fifth Committee, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for the way in which he guided us through our difficult work, as well as the members of the Bureau, with whom it was, as always, a pleasure to work. On behalf of all of us, I would like to express our profound thanks to the representatives of the Secretariat for their cooperation, patience and support, and to the secretariat of the Fifth Committee.

The President (*spoke in French*): Before we proceed, I would like to point out the fact that, since the Fifth Committee has just completed its work, the reports are available only in English. They will be published in all the official languages of the United Nations as soon as possible. I thank participants for their understanding.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of France on a point of order.

Mr. Allo (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having given me the floor to make a customary statement at the stage in the meeting in which we adopt draft resolutions.

First of all, I would very much like to thank the various services for the manner in which they have produced the necessary documents in a very short period of time. However, I regret that the French version of the documents is not available. I would therefore like to recall that the official versions of documents to be adopted in the General Assembly must be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations prior to their formal adoption by the Assembly. I trust that this will be done in the future. In the immediate term, my delegation will not be opposed to their adoption at this meeting.

The President (*spoke in French*): I take note of that statement.

Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance. That means that, where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

In recent days, I have actively consulted all groups and many members on many occasions, in order to find a solution that is satisfactory to all parties while avoiding a vote in keeping with the tradition concerning budgetary matters. I am satisfied that the solution that we have found with the groups has been endorsed by the Fifth Committee. It is this solution that we will consider now in plenary meeting.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a report of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 113, entitled "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions", which is contained in document A/65/562/Add.1. In order for the Assembly to consider the report of the Fifth Committee under sub-item (a) of agenda item 113, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of the sub-item.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113 and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/562/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): In paragraph 3 of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. David Traystman of the United States of America as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 23 July and ending on 31 December 2011.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Traystman as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 23 July and ending on 31 December 2011?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 127 (*continued*)

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/594/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.31. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/243 B).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 127.

Agenda item 129 (*continued*)

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/65/646/Add.3)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.36. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/288).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 129.

Agenda item 143

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/890)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 15 of its report. For the time being, the texts of draft resolutions I to V are contained in documents A/C.5/65/L.53, A/C.5/65/L.50, A/C.5/65/L.51, A/C.5/65/L.35 and A/C.5/65/L.52, respectively. We will now take a decision on the draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Cross-cutting issues". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 65/289).

The President (*spoke in French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 65/290).

The President (*spoke in French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 65/291).

The President (*spoke in French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 65/292).

The President (*spoke in French*): Draft resolution V is entitled "Closed peacekeeping missions".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 65/293).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 143.

Agenda item 144 (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/653/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.32.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/254 B).

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 144.

Agenda item 145

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/881)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.38.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/294).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 145.

Agenda item 146

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/882)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.39.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/295).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 146.

Agenda items 147 and 148 (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/654/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.40.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/296).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 147 and 148.

Agenda item 150

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/883)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.41.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/297).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 150.

Agenda item 151

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/878)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.33.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/298).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 151.

Agenda item 152

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/879)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.34.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/299).

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 152.

Agenda item 153 (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/655/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.42.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/256 B).

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 153.

Agenda item 154

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/884)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.43. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/300).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 154.

Agenda item 155

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/885)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.44. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/301).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 155.

Agenda item 156

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/886)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.45. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/302).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 156.

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/880)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.37. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

A single separate vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed accordingly.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution were retained by 70 votes to 3, with 47 abstentions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Tuvalu

The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by 117 votes to 3, with 1 abstention (resolution 65/303).

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now give the floor to the representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on the resolutions and decisions just adopted.

Mr. Ayzouki (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation joined the consensus on the adoption of resolution 65/302, on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and

voted in favour of resolution 65/303, on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. My delegation would like to reiterate that the responsibility for financing these two missions should be borne by Israel, the occupier and party responsible for the aggression that led to their establishment in the first place. Our position is based on our consistent support for the principles underpinning resolution 1874 (S-IV), of 27 June 1963.

Mr. Ronaghan (United States of America): The United States strongly supports the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which is implementing an important mandate. However, the use of General Assembly funding resolutions to pursue claims against a Member State procedurally is not correct. That is the reason that we have opposed the General Assembly resolutions on this item in previous years, since they require Israel to pay for the costs stemming from the Qana incident of 1996. Those resolutions were not consensus resolutions.

Since shortly after the inception of the United Nations, the procedure that has been followed is that the Secretary-General presents and pursues a settlement of the Organization's claims against a State or States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement is inappropriate. It also politicizes the work of the Fifth Committee and should be avoided both now and in the future.

Mr. Lafortune (Canada): Today, Canada found it necessary to oppose resolution 65/303, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon". That should in no way be construed as a lack of confidence in or support for the work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Canada has supported and continues to support the valuable work of UNIFIL.

However, the resolution contains language that calls on Israel to provide compensation to the United Nations for the 1996 Qana incident. Canada found certain paragraphs of the resolution to be inappropriate, as they were an attempt to politicize the important work of the Fifth Committee. Moreover, those paragraphs were once against introduced into the resolution despite the serious reservations regarding them expressed by Canada and other delegations in previous years. Therefore, Canada cannot endorse the proposed approach to dealing with the issue of compensation and believes that it weakens the resolution overall and draws attention from its principal purpose, which is to support the very useful work that UNIFIL has undertaken.

Mr. Yanouka (Israel): First, I wish to express once again Israel's thanks and support for United Nations peacekeeping forces, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

We express our gratitude to the troop-contributing countries, to the commanders and all those who support the important work of the diverse peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. Israel's political and financial contributions represent our continuing commitment to the operations, goals and values of peacekeeping operations. We are proud to have good relations and long-standing cooperation with peacekeeping forces in our region.

Notwithstanding what I have just said, I am compelled to express Israel's disappointment with resolution 65/303, which contains specific language that is politicized and genuinely unhelpful as regards support for peacekeeping operations. Despite the professional nature of the Fifth Committee, preambular paragraph 4 and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 are an attempt to institutionalize an anti-Israel narrative within the United Nations.

For those reasons, my delegation called for a vote on the resolution and voted against it.

Mr. Khachab (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to thank all the friendly States that voted in favour of financing for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), especially the Group of 77 and China, the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States.

We would also like to thank UNIFIL for the role it has played since 1972. We attach great value to the enormous sacrifices made by the mission, including the hundreds who have died. We also wish to express our appreciation for the excellent relations between UNIFIL and Lebanese forces, as well as to thank all troop-contributing countries.

With respect to the substance of resolution 65/303, we believe that the principle of collective responsibility for the financing of peacekeeping operations does not contradict the individual responsibility of States when they violate international law or their responsibility for the consequences of such

acts. That includes reparations when a State is responsible for the damage it has caused, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in sub-paragraph (e) of paragraph 1 of resolution 55/235, on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping forces.

I would like to remind the Assembly of the contents of the resolution that the Fifth Committee voted in favour of and which was just adopted by the General Assembly. Israel has not implemented the 18 General Assembly resolutions that require it to pay reparations following the shelling of Qana in 1996. This affected international forces. Approximately 100 civilians were killed, mainly children and elderly persons, and there were hundreds of injured. We must also recall that Israel owes over $1 million in reparations for material damage due to the bombing of the UNIFIL compound, as described in the report of the Secretary-General dated 7 May 1996 and contained in document S/1996/337. The Fifth Committee therefore has a duty to consider this issue.

Finally, Israel must pay what it owes, even if that is incomplete in the light of the bombings of the schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East schools in 2003 and 2009.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 156.

Agenda item 157

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/656/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.46. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/257 B).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 157.

Agenda item 158

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/887)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.47. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/304).

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 158.

Agenda item 159

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/888)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.48. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/305).

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 159.

Agenda item 160

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/889)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/65/L.49. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/306).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 160.

The General Assembly has thus also concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this outcome, which has allowed us this morning to fund United Nations peacekeeping missions for the coming year. I would like in particular to thank Ambassador Rosenthal, Chair of the Fifth Committee. I would also like especially to thank the staff of both the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat for their patience, diligence and dedication, even overnight. Finally, I thank all the heads of delegation and other members of delegations with whom I had the opportunity to hold consultations, sometimes even negotiations, and to spend part of the night in my office. I thank them all.

The meeting rose at 8.25 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.107

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

107th plenary meeting
Friday, 1 July 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 69 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Draft resolution (A/65/L.82)

The President (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda item 69 and its sub-items (a) to (d) at its 66th and 67th plenary meetings, on 15 December 2010.

I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.82.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): It is a great pleasure for me to co-introduce, together with the representatives of the Dominican Republic and the State of Qatar, draft resolution A/65/L.82, entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response".

I would like to thank all Member States for their valuable contributions and flexibility during the negotiations. The text was significantly developed with the input we received from various delegations. Let me also express our special appreciation to those Member States that co-sponsored the draft resolution.

In recent years, there have been major disasters in different parts of the world, first in Pakistan, then in Haiti and most recently in Japan, just to mention a few. All these developments led us to take a fresh look at how to improve the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets to tackle natural disasters.

We are grateful to Qatar for launching the HOPEFOR initiative last year. In parallel with that initiative, Turkey has been working on how to better address this issue as well. His Excellency President Abdullah Gül placed specific emphasis on this matter in his statement at the general debate in September 2010 (see A/65/PV.11). At the same debate, His Excellency Mr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, made a similar appeal to all Member States (see A/65/PV.12).

As the endeavours of Turkey, Qatar and the Dominican Republic have coincided, we have decided to join our individual efforts and energies to bring this important issue to the agenda of the United Nations once again. It is our hope that this draft resolution and the activities that will follow will draw the utmost attention of all Member States.

Turkey has its own experience with the need to use military and civil defence assets. In the 1990s, we had two major earthquakes at the heart of our country, during which we lost thousands of our citizens. In the aftermath of those earthquakes, a significant role on the ground was played not only by civilian actors, but also by defence forces. Due to its familiarity with this matter and its first-hand experience, Turkey believes that an effective use and coordination of military and

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11-39701 (E)

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civil defence assets can make a real difference in responding to natural disasters.

We trust that the international conference to be held in Doha will set the stage for a comprehensive discussion of the use of military and civil defence assets by bringing together Member States, key United Nations officials and other relevant actors active in this field. We will continue to be engaged in this critical issue with our partners and bring the outcomes of the international conference to New York later this year.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Qatar to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.82.

Miss Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the co-authors of the draft resolution entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response", I am pleased to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.82 to the General Assembly under sub-item (a) of agenda item 69, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

The frequency of natural disasters has increased in the past decade. This has led to the loss of millions of lives and to the displacement of millions of people. That trend is likely to accelerate over the next decade, with all of the negative implications that this will have on natural disaster response systems.

Over the past year, military assets were enhanced in order to strengthen international humanitarian efforts to address natural disasters around the world. It has been demonstrated that, in many cases, the use of military and civil defence assets has been effective in filling the gap between military resources and those necessary to address natural disasters. Guidelines have been established to determine best practices in using these assets. Measures were also adopted to improve the effectiveness of these resources.

Nevertheless, we must scale up our efforts today so as to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets. This is why we must seek out improved methods to deal with natural disasters and discuss ways to better distribute military and civil defence assets in relief efforts.

This issue has received considerable attention. Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, launched the HOPEFOR initiative in June 2010 in order to discuss the use of military assets in relief operations and improve their effectiveness, while also guaranteeing respect for humanitarian principles in that regard. In recent months, the State of Qatar has been at the forefront of a number of far-reaching consultations to make the HOPEFOR initiative a reality. All stakeholders have participated in an effort to ensure the effective use of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In that connection, I would like once again to thank OCHA and express our deep appreciation to it for the technical assistance provided in the framework of the HOPEFOR initiative.

Last February, Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs wrote a letter (A/65/772) addressed to you, Mr. President, in which he spelled out the guidelines for the HOPEFOR initiative in the framework of international humanitarian assistance to improve military and civil defence assets. Efforts were also launched to improve natural disaster relief and response. In that regard, I would note the appeal launched by the Dominican Republic and Turkey.

Qatar is sparing no effort to bring together these endeavours in the framework of the HOPEFOR initiative in order to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in natural disaster relief response.

An agreement was concluded to hold an international conference in Doha in 2011 at which States and relevant Government and non-government stakeholders would discuss the HOPEFOR initiative and the options contained in the relevant documents, including ways to implement them in close cooperation with Member States and regional organizations, international organizations and the coordinating actors in emergency response.

The initiative underscores the importance of impartiality and neutrality in humanitarian assistance and highlights the civilian aspect of humanitarian assistance in natural disaster response where military assets are used to support humanitarian assistance. We also note that it is important to use these resources with the agreement of the States concerned and in line with international law, humanitarian law and all other relevant humanitarian principles.

The initiative highlights the guidelines for using civil defence and military assets in the framework of natural disaster relief operations. The project also notes

that coordination should be improved between civilian and military humanitarian assistance and should guarantee the necessary civil defence and military assets to support relief operations during natural disasters in an appropriate, effective and coordinated manner, in line with the principles mentioned in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution and, where necessary, in accordance with the Oslo Guidelines.

Interested States came together several times to discuss the content of this initiative. The observations, initiatives and ideas that were put forward during those consultations were taken into account in the discussions that resulted in draft resolution A/65/L.82.

Finally, my delegation would like to thank all the other delegations that participated in the consultations in an effective manner to produce this draft resolution, which we hope will be adopted in order to improve the humanitarian response to natural disasters and further this most noble cause.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.82.

Mr. Montilla (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Dominican Republic would like to associate itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Turkey and Qatar in connection with draft resolution A/65/L.82, entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response".

The adoption of this draft resolution today will undoubtedly constitute an important step in preparing for the international conference that will be held on this issue in Doha at the end of this year. We are certain that, with the adoption of the draft resolution, the issue of the use of military and civil defence assets in the case of natural disasters will be discussed more broadly, in a more inclusive manner and while taking into account the various stakeholders involved so as to improve the coordination and effectiveness of such assets, always with the ultimate goal in mind of saving as many lives as possible and preserving the critical structures of the country affected.

The Dominican Republic is a country which, due to its geographic situation, has traditionally been exposed to a wide range of natural disasters — and now more than ever, owing to the adverse effects of climate change. It is very important for us to study, along with countries in similar situations, the most viable options to react effectively and swiftly to a natural disaster and to determine how these efforts can support those of the United Nations humanitarian agencies.

It is for that reason that, on 23 September 2010, Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, highlighted here in this Hall the need to strengthen national capacities for natural disaster preparedness and response through an alliance of at-risk States that would enable them to exchange experiences and lessons learned in order to apply them in the future (see A/65/PV.12). The various components of the HOPEFOR initiative respond precisely to the need that countries such as ours have to deepen the thinking on how to improve the effectiveness and coordination of humanitarian efforts in natural disasters.

We are sure that, with a commitment to the principles of humanitarian assistance that we have already agreed and a spirit of joint cooperation among civilian and military stakeholders, the HOPEFOR initiative could become the focus for relevant discussion vis-à-vis the international humanitarian agenda, as well as the vehicle through which we, the States Members of the United Nations, could take important steps in responding to increasingly frequent and destructive natural disasters.

I would like very much to thank our colleagues and friends from the State of Qatar and Turkey for all of their cooperation and dedication to this process. Allow me to conclude by urging members to become sponsors of the draft resolution before the Assembly, as well as to participate actively in the process of reflection we have begun.

The President (*spoke in French*): We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/65/L.82, entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/65/L.82, the following countries have also

become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Haiti, Indonesia, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Peru.

The President (*spoke in French*): We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.82?

Draft resolution A/65/L.82 was adopted (resolution 65/307).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 69.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.108

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

108th plenary meeting
Thursday, 14 July 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 114

Admission of new Members to the United Nations

Application for admission (A/65/900)

Letter from the President of the Security Council (A/65/905)

Draft resolution (A/65/L.84)

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to invite the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendation by the Security Council on the application for admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations, as stated in document A/65/905. In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/65/L.84.

I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.84.

Mr. Radebe (South Africa): I wish to express South Africa's gratitude to the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, His Excellency Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, Chair of the Group of African States for the month of July, for affording my delegation the singular honour of introducing this historic draft resolution on behalf of African Member States.

On 9 July 2011, the world witnessed the birth of a new State of Africa, the Republic of South Sudan. After decades of war that caused millions of deaths, in 2005 the people of the Sudan made a historic breakthrough when they agreed on a plan to resolve their differences and begin a journey towards lasting peace. That agreement was enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, entered into between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. One of the key pillars of the Agreement was the right to a referendum on the self-determination and independence of South Sudan.

The General Assembly's adoption of resolution 1514 (XV), on 14 December 1960, was a significant milestone in the struggle for decolonization, self-determination and independence. The resolution served as an inspiration to the majority of people on the African continent and elsewhere in their struggle against colonialism, oppression and apartheid.

The founding fathers and mothers of Africa agreed in the founding documents of the Organization of African Unity and the Constitutive Act of its successor, the African Union, to maintain colonial borders inherited after independence, given the sensitivities and complexities of that colonial inheritance. It was for that reason that the African Union, immediately following the 9 January referendum on self-determination by the people of southern Sudan, adopted a solemn declaration in which it recognized the exceptional challenges inherited from the colonial past, as well as the unique nature of the

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national question confronting the people of the Sudan. In that regard, African heads of State and Government acknowledge that the Sudan represents an exceptional case that does not negate the sacrosanct principle of respect for colonial borders.

I stand here before the General Assembly with the distinct honour to introduce, on behalf of the Group of African States, the draft resolution on the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations, comfortable in the knowledge that this act in no way creates a precedent for secessionist tendencies. It was for this reason that the Republic of the Sudan was the first country to recognize the independence and sovereignty of its new neighbour, the Republic of South Sudan. Draft resolution A/65/L.84 has the unanimous and full support of the African States Members of the United Nations, as well as of the African Union.

As Africans, we continue to be grateful for the role that multilateral organizations in general, and the United Nations in particular, have played in our quest for independence, freedom and self-determination. We reaffirm our collective faith in and commitment to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter.

With the support of the entire continent and all peace-loving people across the world, we present for the Assembly's consideration the draft resolution contained in document A/65/L.84, on the admission of the Republic of South Sudan for membership in the United Nations. History has bestowed on all of us here the rare and distinct honour of witnessing the admission of the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd Member State of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.84, entitled "Admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations". I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed in document A/65/L.84, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Ukraine.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/65/L.84 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/65/L.84 was adopted (resolution 65/308).

The President (*spoke in French*): I therefore declare the Republic of South Sudan admitted to membership of the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of South Sudan to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of South Sudan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The President (*spoke in French*): It is a great honour for me to welcome, on behalf of the General Assembly, the Republic of South Sudan as a new Member of the United Nations. This is a historic and joyous moment not only for Africa, but also for the community of nations. Today, we welcome among us this young country, whose independence was formally declared in Juba, its capital, last Saturday. That is remarkable.

The independence of South Sudan is in fact the culmination of a process launched several years ago. The negotiation and implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as well as the referendum that was held in January, are examples of the peaceful settlement of a conflict situation and a model of peace and cooperation for the good of peoples. I pay tribute to the Sudan for having accepted the outcome of the referendum and, moreover, for having been the first country to recognize that young nation.

The United Nations backed the process leading to independence, and is ready to build on that success and to continue to support the Sudan and South Sudan in their effort to find a peaceful solution to outstanding issues and to live in peace and harmony.

Today, we welcome South Sudan to the community of nations, equal to all other Member States and with the same rights and responsibilities. The universality of the United Nations and the values enshrined in its Charter are thereby enhanced. I am confident that South Sudan will help to promote the objectives of security, peace, prosperity, friendship and cooperation among peoples, as advocated by the United Nations. That is for the good of the people of South Sudan, the region and the entire African continent.

I wish the people and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan peace, prosperity and success. I congratulate them on their recent independence, and wish them a warm welcome as the 193rd Member State in the community of the United Nations.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: At this moment, in this place, the world gathers to say in one voice, "Welcome South Sudan. Welcome to the community of nations". Just days ago, I was honoured to attend the independence ceremony in Juba. I felt the energy, the potential and the pure joy of the world's newest nation. In my eyes, the rising flag symbolized the rising hopes of the people of South Sudan — all those who endured the long civil war, all those who lost so many loved ones, all those who left their homes and fled their communities, and all those who held fast to hope.

Now they have reached an important milestone, but the journey continues. Yes, the task ahead is great, but so, too, is the country's potential, with its abundant natural resources, its arable land, the waters of the Nile and, of course, its proud and hard-working people. We pledge to help South Sudan shape its future as we help the region consolidate its gains. Together, we salute the leaders of both the Sudan and South Sudan. They showed courage and commitment in bringing about a successful referendum that expressed the democratic will of the people.

Matters of borders, the sharing of resources and migration should be dealt with as soon as possible. It is imperative that they resolve their outstanding differences with the same pragmatism and leadership they have each shown so far. The well-being and future prosperity of each depends on the other. South and North share a common destiny. They must see a future as true partners, not as rivals.

The United Nations, the African Union, international non-governmental organizations and individual Member States have been strong and close allies in helping the North and South work towards peace, development and human rights. Our continuing commitment will be essential as we go forward. Together, let us stay true to the cause of peace, justice and opportunity for all. Together, let us say to the citizens of our newest Member State, "You now sit with us. We stand with you".

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, who will speak on behalf of the African States.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): It is a great honour and a privilege for me to speak on behalf of the African States at this historic moment for the United Nations and for Africa. I congratulate the Republic of South Sudan on the proclamation of its independence on Saturday and on its admission today as the 193rd State Member of the United Nations.

The people of South Sudan have demonstrated courage and resilience over decades of civil war and bloody struggle, and I commend them for the sense of responsibility they showed last January in massively and peacefully participating in the referendum for their self-determination.

This is a lesson for the United Nations and for its Members. No matter how many years a conflict may last, no matter how much sorrow and bitterness it may cause, ultimately, with courage and determination, "there should be laughter after pain, there should be sunshine after rain", to quote a popular rock ballad. After decades of pain, with two and half million people martyred for independence, we are now celebrating the birth of a nation — sunshine for a people and a smile for younger generations.

This resounding success would not have been achieved without the remarkable leadership of two heads of State, two remarkable statesmen: President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan and President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir of the Sudan. They have demonstrated over the years that they are men of commitment, men of peace and men of honour. Against

all odds, they managed to put an end to one of the longest civil wars on our continent and steered the peace process, from the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 to the successful organization of a transparent referendum in 2011.

As we commemorate those who lost their lives in the Sudanese civil war, I cannot fail today to pay tribute to the leaders of Anyanya I and of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, particularly Gordon Muortat Mayen and John Garang, who, wherever they may be, are surely more than happy at this successful outcome to their struggle.

We are today celebrating the admission of the fifty-fourth African State to membership of the United Nations. While we rejoice at the victory of freedom and dignity over war, we cannot forget that the Republic of South Sudan is a new State that is facing enormous challenges. The scars of the civil war are still palpable, and the community of nations has the duty to support this newborn State in the process of securing and consolidating peace, creating a democratic State and achieving development by reducing poverty, building infrastructures and putting the country on the right track to prosperity.

The South Sudanese, I believe, demonstrably have the leadership, strength of will and resources to rapidly move forward and to secure the heroic ideals they have fought for decades to achieve. They have added to the annals of history the notion of independence through a negotiated and democratic referendum.

In that respect, we express the hope that the Republic of South Sudan, together with its sister country the Republic of the Sudan, will soon settle the issues that are outstanding in connection with the implementation of the CPA. Those issues include a cessation of hostilities and a political settlement in Southern Kordofan, the final status of Abyei in accordance with the CPA, the demarcation of the North-South boundary, and political consultation on Blue Nile. We further encourage the two Governments and the two peoples, united by the same Nile streaming through their land, to smoothly address other post-secession arrangements, such as the issue of nationality, free movement of people, and the establishment of and respect for agreements on oil and petroleum resources.

Let me conclude by expressing our sincere appreciation to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General, for his personal involvement in the Sudan peace process since his appointment and for his wisdom in choosing the right men in the right places. Indeed, this historic event could not have been celebrated without the tireless efforts of Haile Menkerios, his Special Representative for the Sudan, and of former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Chair of his panel on the referendums in the Sudan. This is one of the reasons for the unanimous endorsement by the African Group of the Secretary-General's candidature for a second term.

Similarly, allow me to voice our gratitude to another son of Africa, former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, for the tremendous work he has done at the helm of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel to support and facilitate both parties in their negotiations aimed at the full and just resolution of the remaining CPA-related issues — a prerequisite for a lasting peace.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation once again to President Mayardit as he leads the new Republic in building a democratic, just and prosperous society. We, Africa, will stand by him.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Talaibek Kydyrov, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Kydyrov (Kyrgyzstan): I have the great honour, on behalf of the Asian Group and in my capacity as Chair of the Group for the month of July, to welcome the adoption of resolution 65/308, entitled "Admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations", submitted by the delegation of the Republic of Rwanda in its capacity as Chair of the African Group.

The Member States of the Asian Group welcome the establishment of the Republic of South Sudan on 9 July 2011, when it proclaimed its independence, and reaffirm their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Asian Group recognizes the vital role of the United Nations in supporting the Republic of South Sudan in its efforts to consolidate peace and prevent a return to violence and, therefore, in developing at the

earliest a strategy in support of national peacebuilding priorities, in order to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

In view of that, the Asian Group welcomes resolution 1996 (2011), adopted by the Security Council at its 6576th meeting, on 8 July, and the establishment, as of 9 July, of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year to help the new nation in its long-term State-building and development.

The Group also welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of his Special Representative for the Republic of South Sudan, and expresses its confidence that the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative, will coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in the Republic of South Sudan, and support a coherent international approach to a stable peace and economic development in the Republic of South Sudan.

We welcome the strong commitment of both the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan to peaceful coexistence in order to achieve stability and mutual prosperity, and to engaging in dialogue to resolve the outstanding issues.

The Asian Group expresses its appreciation to the African Union and subregional organizations for their active engagement in consolidating peace and security, both in the Sudan and in South Sudan, and encourages them to continue these efforts.

The Asian Group welcomes the recommendation of the Security Council in its resolution 1999 (2011), adopted on 13 July, that the Republic of South Sudan be admitted to membership of the United Nations. On behalf of the Asian Group, I have the honour to express our strong and full support for the adoption of resolution 65/308, which we believe will bring long-term stability to both countries and the region as a whole.

In conclusion, let me express our sincere congratulations to the people and the country of South Sudan for this historic event and wish them real prosperity and a better future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Estonia, who will speak on behalf of the Eastern European States.

Mr. Kolga (Estonia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States to welcome the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd State Member of the United Nations.

As we all know, the journey of South Sudan to this Hall has been neither easy nor short. The presence of the delegation of South Sudan here today, headed by Vice-President Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, is therefore all the more appreciated at this historic moment. The referendum in January was a clear sign that the people of South Sudan are united in their dream for self-determination. Almost 99 per cent of those who expressed themselves voted for sovereignty. This weekend, we saw the dream come true, with people in Juba celebrating when independence was officially declared and President Salva Kiir sworn into office.

South Sudan stands at the end of one era today, but only at the beginning of an even more important one, which is transition to a fully functional, responsible and prosperous nation State. The members of the Group of Eastern European States are prepared to work in close cooperation with South Sudan on this road.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Government of the Sudan for its constructiveness throughout the referendum process and to count on its continued cooperation in the future. We would like to call on both sides to engage in resolving all the outstanding issues related to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in an expedited manner.

Last but not least, once again we would sincerely like to congratulate the people and the Government of South Sudan and to wish them a warm welcome to the family of sovereign nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I have the honour to express our warmest welcome to the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd Member of the United Nations. We extend our greetings at this historic meeting to His Excellency Mr. Riek Machar Teny-

Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan.

This is a fine moment for all Sudanese, for the African continent and for the United Nations. The admission of South Sudan to the Organization is the culmination of a long process to bring peace and stability to all Sudanese. The peoples of the Sudan, both North and South, and their leadership are to be commended for this successful outcome. As we congratulate them, we also encourage them to fulfil the vision of two States living side by side in peace and security and working together for the development of their societies.

The fact that the Government of the Sudan was the first to recognize the independence of South Sudan bodes well for a future of cooperation and mutual respect, which we all want to support and to help usher in. We are encouraged by the commitment and desire of both parties to the resolution of the pending issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We appreciate the important role played by the African Union throughout the process that led to the CPA and during its implementation. We will continue to support the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, under the leadership of former President Thabo Mbeki, to assist the two States in resolving outstanding issues.

We also praise the tireless efforts of the United Nations, and in particular of the Security Council, in helping the Sudanese people in their journey. We must continue to do so.

In welcoming the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations, the Latin American and Caribbean States renew their historical and cultural bonds with Africa and their commitment to, and solidarity with, the continent's economic, social and political development.

We note with great satisfaction the solemn commitment of the Republic of South Sudan to abiding by and fulfilling the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations. We stand ready to cooperate closely with the Government and people of South Sudan in all areas of United Nations activity. They can count on our solidarity and our full support.

On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I express our best wishes for success, peace and prosperity to the Government and people of the Republic of South Sudan.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): It is a special honour for me to welcome, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd Member of the United Nations.

This is a truly historic moment and the beginning of a new chapter in the long history of South Sudan, whose people have taken the democratic decision to assume their independence and to take their place in the family of sovereign nations. The peaceful referendum for South Sudan's independence and the declaration of independence on 9 July 2011, witnessed by numerous dignitaries from all over the world, were the culmination of a process to settle a long-standing conflict and to achieve peace in South Sudan, in conformity with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in 2005.

As we witness the birth of a new State, we also see the challenges ahead. We encourage South Sudan's leaders to embrace pluralism and diversity and to lay the foundation for a democratic, fair and inclusive society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We encourage the Governments and the peoples of the Republic of South Sudan and of the Republic of the Sudan in their efforts to address post-independence issues. We trust that the authorities of the two countries will swiftly reach good-neighbourly agreements, for the benefit of their peoples and the wider region.

The Group of Western European and other States looks forward to South Sudan playing an active and constructive role in the work of the United Nations. We pledge to continue working closely with the Republic of South Sudan with a view to achieving durable peace, prosperity, and justice and to meeting the needs and expectations of its people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): On Saturday, I had the privilege of standing in Juba and

watching as the huge, beautiful flag of the Republic of South Sudan was raised for the first time. The crowd roared, and in that wave of joy one could hear a new nation claiming its voice.

Today, that same flag will fly proudly among 192 others. South Sudan will take its rightful place among the community of sovereign nations. On behalf of the United States, the host country to the Organization, and the American people, I warmly welcome the Republic of South Sudan as the newest Member of the United Nations.

This historic and hopeful day was reached only after great suffering and almost unimaginable loss. The independence of the world's newest country is a testament to the people of South Sudan. It is also an inspiration to all who yearn for freedom. May the memory of South Sudan's own struggle for liberty always serve as a reminder to us to insist on the universal rights of all people, to remember those still in shackles, to lift up the hungry and the desperate and to bring hope to the broken places of the world.

South Sudan's statehood is new, but its friendship is not. The bonds between the American people and the people of South Sudan go back many decades. The United States will remain a steadfast friend as South Sudan works to pursue peace, strengthen its democracy and provide opportunity and prosperity for all of its citizens. We look forward to working alongside South Sudan as it shoulders the rights and the responsibilities of a full and sovereign member of the community of nations.

At the United Nations in September 2010, President Obama said, "After the darkness of war, there can be a new day of peace and progress". Today, like Saturday, is such a day for the people of South Sudan. We will support them as they work for an enduring peace rooted in coexistence between two viable States. We will stand by them as they forge the conditions for lasting democracy, prosperity and justice. And we will partner with them as they seek to meet the high hopes of their citizens that have been raised along with their flag.

On behalf of the United States of America, let me say again, congratulations, and welcome.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): As the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan, I should like once again to congratulate the Republic of South Sudan and to reaffirm, as we did on 8 July — the day before the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of South Sudan — our recognition of that country. I said yesterday that we are members of the same family. We in the north are called the Republic of the Sudan; the name of the new State is the Republic of South Sudan. We have Sudan in common. We are all Sudanese and will remain Sudanese, as I said yesterday.

While we are the same family, that family has grown and now has two homes — one in the north and one in the south. It is to that end that we have worked. I have a very clear message of solidarity, cooperation and coordination for the well-being of our two peoples to convey to the international community. Our two peoples have much in common — their history, blood, culture and society. These will remain the bases of our cooperation with the Republic of South Sudan.

We have turned a new page of our history, and we extend our hand to all. This issue has cast a long shadow over our relations with many States, but as this new page turns, we and our brothers in South Sudan have put bitterness and the wounds of war behind us. We look forward to the future and to excellent relations with all the countries that have been affected, in particular the larger States.

We know that we are living in an era of globalization, in which all interests are interrelated. We will respect the interests of other parties, in the hope that they will respect ours, including our diversity and the diversity of opinions, which should in no way affect the situation.

As President Al-Bashir has said, we will make every possible effort to provide whatever assistance we can to the new State of the Republic of South Sudan. We are its closest neighbour in our mother continent, not just geographically but also in terms of our feelings and spirit.

I would like to conclude by saying that this outcome would not have been possible without the contributions of leaders on both sides — President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir in the North and, in the South, the late John Garang de Mabior, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Deng Alor

Kuol, David Deng Athorbei, Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth and others. I pay tribute to them all.

Address by Mr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan.

Mr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the great pleasure to welcome to the United Nations His Excellency Mr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, and to invite him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Machar Teny-Dhurgon (South Sudan): I am both honoured and humbled to stand here today to convey the profound gratitude of the people and Government of the Republic of South Sudan to the members of the General Assembly, who have just voted in favour of South Sudan's accession to membership of the United Nations. We are particularly grateful to the Republic of Rwanda for proposing, on behalf of Group of African States, the resolution that the Assembly has just adopted, as well as to the Republic of South Africa for introducing the resolution.

As a new Member of the United Nations, the Republic of South Sudan undertakes to respect all of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. I pledge to the Assembly today that the Republic of South Sudan will be a responsible member of the international community and will respect all of its obligations under international law. We are working to accede as quickly as possible to all relevant international conventions and treaties, not least those related to human rights.

As we celebrate this moment, we also honour the memory of our citizens who are no longer with us, not least my comrade John Garang de Mabior. Twenty-eight years ago, Mr. Garang, alongside other brave and resolute leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's Liberation Army, launched a valiant struggle for liberation. That struggle cost our people millions of lives and untold suffering. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

Eventually, in 2005, the struggle culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the negotiation and signing of the CPA, including the United States, Kenya, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, Norway and many others, including, of course, the United Nations itself.

The Agreement provided for a self-determination referendum to take place. That referendum was duly held beginning on 9 January 2011, and was conducted according to the highest international standards. More than 98 per cent of the votes were cast in favour of separation. On 9 July, the Republic of South Sudan declared its independence and was duly recognized as a sovereign State.

We are deeply aware that we would not have been able to reach this point without the commitment end support of our many friends. We say thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all of the countries and multilateral and non-governmental organizations, and those who fund them, which helped us during our long journey and were committed to securing peace and security in our country. We pay tribute to the member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the IGAD Partners Forum, the African Union and its High-Level Implementation Panel, the European Union, the Arab League of States and the United Nations for their steadfast support and guidance to all of the Sudanese people in their long search for permanent peace.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation process has involved many challenges. We are grateful to President Thabo Mbeki, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the Governments of the United States, Norway and the United Kingdom, among others, for their work in support of the process. We also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his constant focus on the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We express our appreciation to the members of the Security Council for recently adopting a resolution mandating a new peace consolidation mission in South Sudan. And we thank the General Assembly for its willingness to support and supplement the work of that mission through the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Those efforts are an important example of unity and collaboration among all peoples in the pursuit of peace. They also demonstrate the importance of respecting the right of all peoples to self-determination. On behalf of the people of South Sudan and on my own behalf, there are no words sufficient to express the depth of our gratitude. Through their persistence and dedication, they have helped to bring an end to one of Africa's longest civil wars. Their continued efforts and unyielding support will be crucial to sustain the peace.

I would also like to pay tribute today to Field Marshal Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic the Sudan, for his wisdom in signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, for proceeding with its implementation — in particular the holding of the self-determination referendum — and for courageously accepting the outcome of the referendum vote. We also applaud and welcome the Republic of the Sudan's decision to be the first State to recognize the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of South Sudan.

It is our deepest and most sincere wish to resolve all outstanding matters between the North and the South swiftly and peacefully. We do not harbour bitterness towards our former compatriots. We remain partners in peace and committed to the principles of good neighbourliness. We will work out our differences through dialogue and in a spirit of cooperation. In particular, we must agree on mechanisms for continued cooperation, the demarcation and mutually beneficial management of the common border and the final status of Abyei.

We will continue to work together with the Republic of the Sudan to seek justice for the people of Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Our fundamental hope and desire is to see peaceful coexistence between the two neighbouring States of the Sudan and South Sudan. Both States must be viable and stable. We will strive to build a future in which our two countries can work cooperatively in peace with one another and be mutually supportive.

After many years of war, we want our new country to be a force for peace in our region. We shall live in peace with all our neighbours. To them, I say that the Republic of South Sudan will be a partner in all human endeavours that promote security, justice, liberty, common peace and prosperity. Let us all work together towards such ends.

With that in mind, we urge our brothers in Ethiopia and Eritrea to resolve their differences peacefully and amicably. We appeal to our brothers and sisters in Somalia to seek lasting peace. We salute all those who work to build democracy and the rule of law from the ground up. We encourage all countries of the region to come together to eradicate the scourge of the Lord's Resistance Army. We will also join our regional partners and the rest of the world in the fight against terrorism.

While we work to foster peace in our region, we must also build a strong and viable nation at home. We have made a solemn commitment to democracy, pluralism, inclusiveness, the rule of law, and the freedoms of thought, belief and expression. We will embrace tolerance and unity. We will be patriotic regardless of our cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Our diversity will be a source of pride and strength and the basis upon which we protect everyone's right to think and speak freely.

We must not allow the threat of instability to deter us. President Salva Kiir Mayardit has reiterated his declaration of amnesty to all those who have taken up arms for whatever reason, so that they can join us in the work of building our new nation. We want a peaceful nation. We know that that means including all voices in our Government.

The Transitional Constitution, signed by President Kiir on 9 July, will be the starting point for an extensive consultation process to produce a permanent constitution for the Republic of South Sudan. It must be a constitution that fulfils the aspirations of all our people. Those consultations and the enactment of the permanent constitution will take place under a broad-based Government, to be appointed in the near future. Our Government will prioritize the public interest. Transparency and accountability will be central.

We have a daunting agenda in front of us. We must first fulfil our responsibility to provide security and extend the rule of law. We must also transform our rural areas. Agriculture will be a major area of investment and the basis on which we diversify our economy. We must provide free universal basic education to all our children. We must extend primary health care across the whole of South Sudan. We must

build our physical infrastructure, with a focus on roads. We must build our institutions in a culture of transparency. We must enhance the role of women and their purpose in society. And we must enable internal reconciliation and unity.

When we started our journey, we could hardly imagine that the road would lead us to this point, however much we hoped. Now, we must move forward together to fulfil our people's aspirations. We aspire to a South Sudan where children go to school without fear. We aspire to a South Sudan where every house is provided with electricity and water. We aspire to a country where everybody has access to health care and where every family has enough food on the table. We aspire to a South Sudan where all our sons and daughters live in brotherhood and sisterhood and where our nation lives at peace with our neighbours and the world.

That is our aspiration. Our task from this moment forward is to make it a reality. To our partners and friends, we are grateful for their continued help in that endeavour, which is both welcome and needed. We very much appreciate their dedication to date and their renewed commitment to continue with their support. We can assure them that their investments will be protected, their efforts respected and their advice heeded.

We now dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to building a better future for our children. With the help and support of the international community together here today, we are confident of our success.

The President (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan for the statement that he has just made.

Mr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, was escorted from the rostrum.

The President (*spoke in French*): To mark this historic moment, I should like to inform Member States that the flag of the Republic of South Sudan will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.109

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

109th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 19 July 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Askarov (Uzbekistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 13 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/65/L.86)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 13 jointly with agenda items 115 and 120, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit" and "Strengthening of the United Nations system", respectively, at the 52nd plenary meeting on 23 November 2010.

Members will also recall that, under agenda items 13 and 115, the Assembly adopted resolutions 65/1, 65/7, 65/281 and 65/285 at its 9th, 41st, 100th and 105th plenary meetings, respectively. Also under agenda item 13, the Assembly adopted resolutions 65/10 and 65/234 at its 52nd and 72nd plenary meetings, respectively.

I now give the floor to the representative of Bhutan to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.86.

Mr. Wangchuk (Bhutan): I have the distinct honour and privilege to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution contained in document A/65/L.86, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development".

The draft resolution is the result of two open-ended consultations and several rounds of bilateral negotiations. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all delegations for their active participation, constructive contributions and remarkable spirit of cooperation throughout the process.

The draft resolution was inspired by the belief that we need to begin discussing a topic whose moment has come at the United Nations. In recent times, our world has been confronted by a series of crises. These are becoming more pronounced and perennial despite our best efforts to tackle them. The solutions may at best be temporary and symbolic unless we address the very fundamentals of conventional economic and development structures and models.

We are deeply encouraged that an increasing number of thinkers, economists and political leaders are moving in this direction. They are searching for ways to make development more sustainable, humane and holistic. In this endeavour, several Member States have taken initiatives to develop indicators for happiness and well-being. The draft resolution reflects this important spirit and invites them to elaborate additional measures that better capture happiness and well-being, with a view to guiding their public policies.

It also invites those Member States that have taken such initiatives to develop new indicators to share such information with the Secretary-General.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

This, we feel, would be a timely and important contribution to the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. Encouraged by this interest and in order to jumpstart the process of discussion on happiness at the United Nations, my Government has offered to convene a panel discussion on the theme of happiness and well-being at the next session of the General Assembly.

The yearning for a fulfilling, meaningful and happy life is a fundamental goal of every person. In fact, that is what makes us human. The search for happiness is a serious matter, and we feel that the time for its discussion at the United Nations should not be delayed. The number of sponsors of the draft resolution only confirms that. We are confident that the draft resolution will be the start of an enriching and rewarding discussion on happiness and well-being at the United Nations.

In conclusion, my delegation requests the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. Let me conclude by wishing all members very happy lives.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/65/L.86, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Elliott (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/65/L.86, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would invite the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations on the pursuit of happiness and well-being, and to communicate such views to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session for further consideration.

The report to be communicated by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session constitutes an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Consequently, additional requirements of $52,300 would arise under section 2 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management), in 2012 to translate and issue that report, with an estimated 8,500 words, into all six official languages.

Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General will make every effort to provide those documentation services to the extent possible, subject to the level of resources to be authorized by the General Assembly for the biennium 2012-2013.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.86.

I again give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Elliott (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to the countries listed therein, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/65/L.86: Andorra, Croatia, Cuba, Iceland, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, San Marino, Serbia, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.86?

Draft resolution A/65/L.86 was adopted (resolution 65/309).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 13.

Agenda item 53 (*continued*)

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/65/424/Add.1)

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee that is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

> *The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 65/310).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 53?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 121 (*continued*)

Multilingualism

Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/488)

Draft resolution (A/65/L.85)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Senegal to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.85.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): It is an honour for me to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.85, entitled "Multilingualism", which is the result of intense meetings of negotiations, throughout which a constructive spirit truly prevailed. Allow me to express my great appreciation to all delegations for the interest that they took, in particular all the many that actively participated in the relevant consultations. I would also like to make special mention of all of the Member States that agreed without hesitation to sponsor the draft resolution based on the shared desire to strengthen multilingualism, which is the strength of the United Nations.

This is also an opportunity for me to commend the outstanding work done by the Under-Secretary-General for Communication and Public Information and Coordinator for Multilingualism, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka. His commitment and readiness to promote this matter that is so dear to Member States has enabled us to make notable progress since his appointment.

I would also like to highlight the invaluable availability and sound service of the Secretariat, which throughout the process clarified and provided information on various items in response to our questions.

The equitable treatment of the six official languages of the United Nations remains a central element of our desire to establish exemplary cooperation and effective partnership, as described in the Charter of the United Nations. That is all the more necessary given that it guarantees the possibility for each Member State to explain, promote and defend its position in its language of choice, thus forming the very bedrock of effective and efficient multilingualism.

That fundamental necessity was underscored by the Secretary-General in his report on multilingualism (A/65/488). The report served as a broad basis for draft resolution A/65/L.85. By recalling the principle of strict compliance with the United Nations rules on multilingualism, the draft resolution reiterates the need to improve the availability of official documents of the United Nations in all six official languages. Likewise,

the text highlights the need to take on board the multilingual diversity of Member States in terms of managing the Organization's human resources, through guidelines on promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the institutions that train language specialists.

Living multilingualism clearly contributes to more effective communication among the various departments and services of the Secretariat. It is important to urge the United Nations to devote particular attention to external communications. With that in mind, the draft resolution highlights the critical role of multilingualism in peacekeeping operations in ensuring understanding of local populations and also among personnel involved in peacekeeping operations.

In order to carry out its role successfully, the United Nations must convey its message to the peoples of the world in their own languages. In order to do that, the United Nations must continue to modernize its communication tools based on the diversity of languages in order to ensure fair and equitable access for all to information.

In conclusion, I also wish to reiterate our desire to see the draft resolution contained in document A/65/L.85, entitled "Multilingualism", adopted by the customary consensus.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now consider draft resolution A/65/L.85, entitled "Multilingualism".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Elliott (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/65/L.85, entitled "Multilingualism", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraph 28 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would urge the Secretariat to translate all peacekeeping training documents into the six official languages of the United Nations, within existing resources, to ensure that all Member States can use them.

Paragraph 28 refers to translation into the six official languages. It is noted that the working languages of the Secretariat are English and French, and currently, peacekeeping training documents are translated from English into French where funding is available from voluntary contributions.

Furthermore, paragraph 28 refers to translation to be undertaken within existing resources. In that regard, the translation of peacekeeping training documents into the six official languages will be met, to the extent possible, from voluntary contributions available to the Secretariat for that purpose. Thereafter, the Secretary-General will make every effort to provide translation services to the extent possible within existing resources for the biennium 2010-2011 and subsequently, subject to the level of resources to be authorized by the General Assembly, for future bienniums.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/65/L.85, no programme budget implications would arise.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.85.

I again give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Elliott (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to the countries listed in document A/65/L.85, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Australia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Malta, Panama, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.85?

Draft resolution A/65/L.85 was adopted (resolution 65/311).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 121?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 126 (*continued*)

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Draft decision (A/65/L.83)

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 74th plenary meeting on 14 January the Assembly adopted decision 65/413.

The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/65/L.83. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of agenda item 126.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.110

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

110th plenary meeting
Monday, 25 July 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of sympathy with Norway

The President (*spoke in French*): It is my sad duty to convey, on behalf of the General Assembly, our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Norway in connection with the recent tragedy that has affected the country.

I give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mr. Saether (Norway): This youth conference ought to be about the rights and values that were attacked last Friday. It should be about the right and opportunity of young people to participate in public life, to shape and express their own opinions, to organize freely and to speak out against their own country's leadership or political system if they so deem necessary.

On Friday, around 700 young people were gathered on the island of Utøya exercising exactly those inherent and, in our view, inviolable rights. They were driven by their belief in democracy, diversity and inclusiveness. They were convinced that they had a right and a duty to take part in political life; that only through active participation could they help to develop Norway further; and that, through active participation, they would help to ensure that Norway continued to play a positive role in international affairs as a partner in solidarity with other peoples and countries. Those were the sentiments and convictions that prevailed on that island in the afternoon of last Friday. Those were the values that evil set out to destroy.

The terrorist attack seems to have been the act of a single Norwegian man, who defined himself as deeply conservative and a Christian. Through that heinous act, he hoped to reverse Norway's policy of tolerance and inclusion, not least towards Islam. The attacks were the deadliest in Norway since the Second World War. The bombing of the Government complex and the massacre of young people gathered for the annual Labour Party summer youth camp struck at the very heart of Norwegian democracy.

More than 80 young people were shot and killed one by one. Those killed were part of Norway's political future. Their surviving friends have pledged not to be intimidated by the atrocity. They will not be terrorized into silence. By staying engaged, they will demonstrate that violence against opinion is ineffective. Thus, they will also honour their dead friends.

In fact, over the years, the Labour youth of Norway has sent many youth representatives to the United Nations. We trust that they will do so again. As Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, himself once a youth representative to the United Nations, said, we will respond to the attack with even more democracy, more openness, more participation and more humanity.

At this time of national tragedy, Norway stands united in grief and in our determination to uphold the values of our democracy: openness, trust and participation regardless of background. We are grateful for and heartened by all the warm words and expressions of condolence and sympathy to the

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families and friends of the victims and to the people of Norway.

I would like to conclude by quoting a young female survivor from the island. She said the following: "If one man can show so much hate, imagine how much love we all can show each other."

Agenda item 27 (*continued*)

High-level Meeting on Youth

Social development

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Draft resolution (A/65/L.87)

The President (*spoke in French*): I now declare open the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth. This meeting is held in accordance with resolution 65/267 of 15 March 2011.

It is a pleasure for me to welcome participants to New York today for the opening of our High-level Meeting on Youth. More than 500 young people have joined us from the entire world for this event. I am very pleased about that, and thank them for taking part in this meeting, which would not have the same vibrancy without them. I also most particularly thank Alek Wek, a symbolic figure of commitment for young people, and the other representatives of youth organizations whom we will have the opportunity to hear shortly.

Today, the body of young people aged 15 to 24 numbers more than 1 billion girls and boys, the vast majority of whom live in developing countries. Despite the progress made in achieving internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, many young people live in areas where poverty still remains a major challenge. Their lives are sometimes threatened by extreme physical conditions, such as the ongoing drought and famine in Somalia, in particular. It is often difficult for young people to access basic social services, education, vocational training and quality health care. That is especially true for girls and young women. Their job opportunities and prospects for socio-economic development are limited.

In order to draw the international community's attention to the position of young people, in December 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth. The theme for the Year was dialogue and mutual understanding. We thereby sought to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity among generations, cultures, religions and civilizations. We sought to promote a culture of dialogue and understanding among and with young people as key stakeholders and actors in today's world.

The events that have marked these past months in the Arab world, in particular, have indeed shown us the extent to which young people are major actors in our societies and how they are a force for change when they mobilize. Young people are moved by ideals of peace, friendship and openness to others and to their differences. They are often more tolerant than their elders. They are more creative and very often more disposed to innovation.

Young people are enthusiastic supporters of new technologies and novelty in general, such as mobile telephones and social networks as elements of inclusion and social integration. Young people are ready to adopt greener and more sustainable alternative lifestyles. Experience has also shown us how young people participate in the fight against AIDS and how they can help to make a difference in combating hunger and poverty.

We should draw more on the energy and enthusiasm of young people. Our societies need them. We should create the conditions to enable young people to fully exercise their rights, to flourish and to fulfil their aspirations. We should work for and with young people.

The Meeting opening today offers us a unique opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in order to meet the challenges facing young people in their daily lives, to create opportunities for them to flourish and to help, with them, to build societies that are more respectful of people and their environment. We need to ensure the full participation of young people in society, give them access to basic services, education and quality health care, and offer them prospects for decent and productive employment.

If the Year of Youth is to be effective, it needs to leave us, through the outcome document to be adopted

at the end of this meeting (A/65/L.87), a legacy commensurate with the goals that I have just outlined. I thank Ambassadors Jean-Francis Zinsou of Benin and Thomas Mayr-Harting of Austria for their efficient handling of the negotiation process and for their commitment. I am delighted that the views of nearly 100 youth organizations have so far been taken into account in the negotiations.

In general, the importance of a close dialogue with young people and organizations led by young people has been evident throughout the International Year of Youth.

We must strengthen partnerships and continue to set up channels for cooperation, dialogue and information-sharing between Governments and organizations led by young people and other partners in civil society and the private sector. I call on Member States to make a firm commitment to implementing policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels, in accordance with the goals set forth in our declaration. It is also important that United Nations entities continue to strengthen their coordination and increase their efforts towards a more coherent and integrated approach in order to maximize their impact on the development of young people.

I am confident that we will seize every opportunity for dialogue and interaction in order to make this High-level Meeting and the International Year of Youth a success. I wish representatives constructive deliberations on the basis of mutual respect, understanding, openness and a spirit of inquiry.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Let me first share my shock over the terror attack in Norway on Friday. I condemn such violence in the strongest possible terms. I am particularly saddened that the murderer singled out young people keen to engage meaningfully in the future of their country. That atrocity stands in stark contrast to the theme of this meeting, which is "Youth: dialogue and mutual understanding". I called Prime Minister Stoltenberg on Saturday and told him that I was moved by his consoling and principled message to his fellow citizens, which underlined Norway's values of tolerance, respect and commitment to international cooperation. My condolences go to the families of the bereaved and to the Government of Norway.

Let me now turn to today's event. I am pleased to be here today as we conclude the International Year of Youth. I am grateful to the many Heads of State and Government and ministers who have joined us, and I particularly welcome the large contingent of young people here today. Their energy always gives me a lift, as does their sense of style. Ms. Wek is, of course, an icon of style, but more importantly, she is an example of an inspiring ending to what could have been one more of many, many tragic stories. Earlier this month, I had the enormous pleasure of attending the independence ceremonies of the country of Ms. Wek's birth — South Sudan, the newest member of the community of nations. Ms. Wek and I will both work in our own ways to help the 193rd State Member of the United Nations achieve the peace and prosperity it seeks. South Sudan will need the full support of the international community, and the country's young people can and must play a central role.

I have visited Mr. Dantas's country twice in the past two years, though regrettably not his home city of São Paulo. I met with young people in Rio's Babilônia favela, and talked with them and young people from other favelas. Not all have had Mr. Dantas's good fortune to escape violence and drugs, receive an education and find work. Meeting them made me think of the more than 1 billion young people in today's world, the vast majority of whom live in developing countries. Some receive a good education and can look forward to decent jobs and rewarding lives, but too often young people lack the education, freedom and opportunities they deserve. Unemployment rates for young people are three to six times those for adults, and informal, low-wage and insecure work is the norm. This is especially true for young women, the disabled and indigenous youth. Increasingly, young people are saying to their elders and to their Governments: "This is not the world we want."

That clear conviction is part of what has made the past year a momentous one for youth. In Tunisia, which initiated resolution 64/134 proclaiming the International Year of Youth, young people have been at the centre of a movement for change that is sweeping North Africa and the Middle East. We all know the story of Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian street vendor who set himself on fire last December. He was a young man, 27 years old, tired and frustrated with the privations and indignities of life. He saw so little future for himself and his countrymen and women that he

sacrificed himself. His death was tragic, but the fire he lit led to the downfall of two autocrats, first in Tunisia, then in Egypt. The fires have travelled far since then.

The Facebook generation is showing a growing resolve to change our world and a capacity to make things happen. They are bringing their energy and courage to some of the most difficult issues we face. Young people are standing up for the rights of those who suffer discrimination based on gender, race or sexual orientation. They are confronting sensitive issues, talking to their peers and working to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS. And they are leading the charge to adopt a green model for development. Young people often understand better than older generations that we can and must transcend our religious and cultural differences in order to reach our shared goals.

Our job is to work for and with them to make sure they can inherit the world they want — the world promised by the United Nations Charter, built on dialogue and mutual understanding. The international community must work to expand the horizons of opportunity for young women and men and answer their legitimate demands for dignity and decent work. The global economic crisis and austerity measures in many countries are constraining those opportunities. When young people lack opportunity, they are more easily led to crime and violence, drugs and risky sex, and the slippery slope down to the bottom of the social scale. Failing to invest in our youth is a false economy. Conversely, investing in young people will pay great dividends for all.

The United Nations is doing a considerable amount to invest in youth. We are acquiring knowledge and best practices about the issues affecting young people today, and we are making greater efforts to engage youth in our negotiating and decision-making processes. Still, I do not think we have gone nearly far enough.

I should like to go over the heads of the members of the General Assembly and ask the youth representatives one or two questions: "Are we doing enough for you? Can we do more?" I think we can and must do more for our young people. They are the leaders of tomorrow. My peers and I may be the leaders of today, but it will be the young who will stand here and lead the world tomorrow.

Next June, the United Nations will gather in Rio for one of the most important meetings in the Organization's history. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) will help to determine our collective future. That is why it is such a priority for me, and I hope and expect that it will be a top priority for the Heads of State and Government of all Member States.

I have called climate change the defining issue of our time. Indeed, we must go even further. We must make sustainable development for all the defining issue of our time, because it is only in that broader framework that we can address climate change and the needs of our citizens.

Young people can and must play a central role in bringing dynamic new ideas, fresher thinking and energy to the Rio+20 process. We should all work to engage them and ensure that their voices are heard. One way we may consider doing this is through the United Nations youth delegate programme. I welcome the programme delegates who are here today. By including young people in national delegations to United Nations meetings, Governments not only help young people to gain a better understanding of the complexities of the negotiations, but they also gain an insight into the needs and views of youth. The role and responsibility of leaders is to listen and respond to the legitimate aspirations of their people, including young people.

The youth delegate programme is an important opportunity for young people to represent themselves meaningfully on the international stage. I therefore recommend that all States Members of the United Nations review their participation in that important programme and that all parties — youth, United Nations entities and Government — to evaluate how their programmes related to youth can link with it.

The International Year of Youth may be coming to a close, but our obligations to young people remain. That means promoting a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding, and it means tackling the pressing issues of our times: climate change, nuclear disarmament, women's and children's health, strengthening democracy, achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring sustainable development that benefits all people while protecting the planet. It also means strengthening global solidarity.

The famine in parts of Somalia is only the latest test. We live in a changing and volatile world. Only by

working together can we meet our challenges. To do so, we need youth on our side — indeed, in the vanguard. Young people are willing and able to take ownership of their own future and the common ideas we cherish. Let us embrace this energy, creativity and idealism for the benefit of all, in particular for young people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Pursuant to resolution 65/267 on the organization of this High-level Meeting on Youth, I now give the floor to Ms. Alek Wek, international supermodel, humanitarian, author and, above all, young person.

Ms. Wek: I am very honoured to be here. I will introduce myself. My name is Alek Wek. Representatives here may not recognize me as I work in fashion as a runway model. I left my homeland of Southern Sudan, where I grew up in the very small town of Wau, at the age of 12. I do not sound like I am from Southern Sudan because I left for London. My family and I had to flee and I had to live in London as a refugee. I did not see my mother for two years, which was very emotional.

However, growing up in the south of Sudan was wonderful. I really enjoyed it very much — playing with my mother and learning from her every day in life. And, of course, I was a daddy's girl. My mother always told me, "Stop being naughty!", because I was a tomboy, but daddy was wonderful. I enjoyed my childhood very much. However, I have always felt very sensitive about what other people were going through, even though I was blessed to have left the country, having lost my father. He really embedded in me something that he always said: "If you believe in something, you have to follow it all the way through." I truly believe in that and would not otherwise have grown into the woman I am, still learning and drawing inspiration from others. I have now come to a place where I can truly appreciate that inspiration comes from the people around us. I am very touched by that.

On that note, to be brief, I truly believe that children are not only our future; they are the here and now. Looking at how we grow as people, I believe that if we can help young people, it will be they who determine who we are as a nation. I am so touched at the fact that the United Nations has come on board and said, "This is it". The people have spoken in South Sudan; they did not just vote 50, 60 or 70 per cent, or whatever number it is; people have really united, and I think that this is a start. So I created "Working to educate kids" — not to promote that right now, but truly it is to be able to come together and help.

Let me tell you a little story. When I went back in 2005 with my mother to do a documentary with BBC One, I saw an 18-year-old girl teaching kids under a tree, and not just little stories. The 18-year-old could not further her education, but she wanted to teach the younger ones, and that was really touching for me. Just small things that at times we may take for granted, but for me it was very touching. Doctors without Borders, the United States Committee for Refugees, down there when the war was really worse, were helping to save lives, and that for me was very touching.

I do not know what else to say; I do not want to take a lot of the Assembly's time. But I think that it is very important to stress the importance of not just educating our young ones but truly taking them on board, because if we do not do so, there is no hope, and I think the hope is right now. It's very exciting. What can I say — woo-hoo for South Sudan. Independence — now we can start to rebuild.

I am just really touched. I am thankful. I truly appreciate it. I am very shy as a person, and not just on the runways. It's easy; I do my thing. What else can I say? I don't want to ramble on, so I guess I will have to wrap it up. I hope that we can do something for the young people, not just in South Sudan but in general, and I very much appreciate this moment.

The President (*spoke in French*): I congratulate Ms. Alek Wek and wish to convey to her the Assembly's satisfaction at the fact that her country, South Sudan, has been admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I now give the floor to Mr. Romulo Dantas of Brazil, Secretary for Youth Empowerment of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Mr. Dantas (World Alliance of YMCAs): I wish all present here today a very good High-level Meeting. It is not every day that I have the opportunity to invite Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Joseph Deiss, Mr. Shaaban and Ms. Alek Wek to come and visit my old street.

I come from São Paulo, Brazil, from one of the most violent and poorest areas of São Paulo City in the 1990s. Even with a wonderful family, it would have been very easy for me to go along with some of my

friends and, like some of them, become a gang member or a drug addict, or end up in jail or even dead. But it did not happen, and I will explain why in a moment.

We have come together in the framework of the International Year of Youth in order to recognize an important chapter of our historical challenge to make visible the importance of young people and all of the issues that affect their lives. They are from different cultures and backgrounds: boys and girls, young men and women, poor and rich, from faith-based backgrounds and not. They are from my street, they are from the streets where you live, and they might not be celebrating this day with us.

Some of them who can understand the existence of forums such as this one are asking themselves right now: "What are those people doing? They talk, talk, talk, and absolutely nothing changes in my life. I am still knocking on doors to look for a job, and I cannot find one." This is a friend of mine from the fifth grade speaking. But along the way, my street has become much bigger, and I had the opportunity to meet a lot of young people. Another voice said to me: "I cannot say the things that I would like to, or properly express myself about my sexual orientation." Another friend walks only during daylight hours, to ensure that he will be alive at the end of the day. Others say: "I cannot tell people from my community that I have the right to decide when it comes to my own body, and that I should decide when to have sex or to get pregnant." "I would love to go to school, if I could find one, or even teachers, to help me grow."

More voices say: "I would stay in my country if I was not forced to leave because of incomprehensible wars, or even because I need to find ways to feed my family." "I would not be suffering from HIV/AIDS if someone had told me to use condoms, to have only one sexual partner, or maybe to wait longer for this step; even worse, I cannot even treat myself because of the price of the medicines."

Those are voices that I have heard in many, many streets. Here is one more: "I would have my legs to do some sports and to run if someone had not planted bombs because of conflicts that I do not understand, and that, to be honest, do not mean much to me or to my buddies, at least not enough to exchange for a life."

Could you imagine a world without young people? We cannot imagine that. When we look at unemployment rates, young people are at the top of the list. They are the most affected. When we look at the number of HIV infections, guess what? Young people — women especially — are also at the top of the list. When we watch news about the victims of violence, there they are again — young people. In all countries and regions of our common world, we find young people with fewer opportunities, marginalized young people, youth living with illiteracy, or even fatal diseases.

I could continue to describe many things: how we have been competent and efficient in creating a very hostile world for young people. The International Year of Youth will soon be coming to an end, but a great deal remains to be done. It is time to celebrate, but it also time for us to call on Governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations to seriously tackle the challenges faced by billions of young people in our world.

We all must understand that it is impossible to build solutions for a diverse world in the absence of a true partnership among all the important players in the youth field in many areas and at all levels. If we want to have a minimum chance of guaranteeing dignity, freedom, peace and a decent life for young people and for the population in general, a real and effective dialogue is absolutely crucial. It is time for us to build a strong commitment to improving the situation of young people around the world, especially for the marginalized young men and women who are suffering in various areas of the world and are oppressed in their thoughts, in their feelings and in their opportunities to act.

I am not saying that things have not changed or improved. They have. From my perspective, things have gotten better. The world is more prosperous for my generation than it was for previous ones. Some of the people here in this Hall are responsible for some of the changes we have seen. But we cannot sleep until we get things done; we cannot rest until we are sure that we are not going to listen to this kind of testimonial again, and we shall fulfil our responsibilities and commitments.

We are here to propose a deal: let us be partners. Let us move in the direction of more mutual trust and respect than we have now. We are here to say that youth-led organizations can help and are key to changing the situation, because we are rooted where the young people are. We know what they are feeling.

We know how to use resources more efficiently. We build solutions with young people at the grass-roots level through our everyday work, in both formal and non-formal education. Believe in us.

Youth civil society is inclusive in its nature, democratic in its processes and effective in its approaches. We are practicing those principles by empowering young people to be decision-makers and agents of change every single day.

We cooperate, and a good example of this is the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations, a network of international youth non-governmental organizations and regional platforms that we are very proud to belong to. Let us work together towards the full implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth. We do not need to recreate things. What we need is to see this ambitious Programme reflected in the policies and youth programmes of participants' countries. They must partner with us to strengthen the channels that allow their people to have their voices heard. They must take the chance of sharing responsibility and decision-making with us. They must make our structures more friendly for more young people to participate. We invite participants to implement programmes together at the global level.

However, to do so, we need resources — yes, resources. Some of those here are thinking, "There they are, asking for money again." Yes, we are. We do ask them to invest in young people and in their development. Investments for the full implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth, youth-oriented organizations and programmes are needed at the national and international levels.

I urge participants to take note that, as a civil society we are very busy doing what we exist for, so we ask them to please make things less bureaucratic for us and let us spend the extra time by thinking of better ways to serve young people. After listening to all of this, they are probably asking themselves, "Do they not know that we are already informed about everything he just mentioned?" Yes, again, I know. We know. But it is so obvious that we should be asking ourselves why it is not happening.

I am about to conclude, and that is why I am going to synthesize some of the ideas. First, attention must be paid to marginalized young people. Secondly, responsibility must be shared with us. Thirdly, money must be invested in the World Programme of Action on Youth and in youth organizations. Fourthly, new policies and programmes must be designed and implemented to elevate the conditions of the younger population.

Before I end my speech, because I must, I will do what I have promised, I will tell participants why my story is different than those of some of my friends. It is because of an organization; it is because of the YMCA. The YMCA helped me to find something that I did not have when I was a teenager: self-esteem, self-confidence and friends to prove to me that I was capable of doing incredible things. With the YMCA, I have learned how to be a leader. I decided on the profession I wanted to have. I learned that I could dream anything, just because I am allowed to do so. I learned how to serve my community, and serving makes me very happy. I had the opportunity to be in good health by practicing sports, and to feel good by helping people as a volunteer, to sing, to dance and to understand that I am not a subject. I am a citizen. I can participate. I can make change.

I am one of 45 million served by the organization I come from, but this figure is much higher than 100 million if we take into consideration all the youth organizations represented here in this Hall today. We empower young people because we believe in youth and we exist for them. And because of the positive transformations I have experienced, I have decided to dedicate my life to this cause, as many of those in this Hall have done.

There is nothing about us without us. Nothing about young people should be without the participation of young people. If we act accordingly, the lights of hope and love will illuminate my own street and our streets in every corner of this world.

I am a youth with a dream so I will rise up, stand up and fight for my rights. Take me as a part of you. Do not see me as a subject, but as a citizen, and together we will rise. Let us sing.

The President (*spoke in French*): As members are aware, pursuant to resolution 65/267, this High-level Meeting will include plenary meetings and two thematic panel discussions.

The first panel discussion will take place this morning, immediately after the adjournment of this opening meeting, and is entitled "Strengthening

international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty".

The second panel discussion, which will begin promptly at 3 p.m. in this Hall, is entitled "Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development".

The formal plenary meetings will take place tomorrow starting at 10 a.m. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, I would ask speakers to respect their statement limits for formal plenary meetings, which are three minutes for statements made in a national capacity and five minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. In view of the long list of speakers and the limited time available, I propose that the outcome document (A/65/L.87) be adopted at the beginning of the first plenary meeting tomorrow morning, before statements by Member States are made.

Also, in the event that the Assembly does not finish the list of speakers by 6 p.m. tomorrow, we will hear summaries from the co-chairs of the thematic panel discussions at the end of the afternoon plenary and will then continue with the list of speakers at a later date to be announced.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.